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20 YEARS!
1987-2007
C!N
CAP RETURNS

Star Spangled Avenger Re-Cap!

Captain America's returning in January!

Well, not exactly.

Let's specify that there *will* be a Captain America in January... but he *won't* be Steve Rogers. Instead, there'll be someone new... and he'll be wearing a new costume obviously inspired by the classic *Joe Simon-Jack Kirby* design—but this one is a revamp by none other than *Alex Ross.*

Ross, a student of Golden Age design and Silver Age sensibilities (he often describes himself as "the youngest 60 year old in comics" at a mere 37) has an ability, according to many editors and creators, to hit the nail on the head when it comes to evoking the essence of a character through their costume.

How did Ross become involved in reinterpeting one of the most iconic costumes in comics history? "It was [editor] *Tom Brevoort* who contacted me, and we worked out all the particulars. It all had Dynamic Forces and *Nick Barrucci* involved as well... Nick was the one to bridge everything between me and Marvel and facilitate so much of it."

Rather than working solo, Ross was part of a team as far as the redesign was concerned. "*Ed Brubaker, Steve Epting* and I were working through the whole thing. And I have to say, from the very start, Ed and Steve had as much input on the design as anybody could – nothing was done without them. Brubaker is and will be in charge of anything that happens with Captain America in the series—or, I guess as some fans will see it, anything 'that matters.'"

Ed Brubaker offered a little more insight into his involvement in the redesign. "Alex brought a few initial costume design ideas to the initial conference call, and we used those as a springboard. From there we batted several different ideas for the costume details around until we all liked what we had. My main input was the gun, really, other than just saying what I did or didn't like.

"I really felt that Steve should have more say than me, because he'd be the one drawing it. I just wanted something that still looked like Cap, but that looked a bit different, but still had a 'classic' feel to it. All of Alex's costume designs and redesigns have that feel. He's like *John Romita Sr.* with his designs—very clear and clean and nothing there without a reason."

As Ross saw it, there were some design elements that had to be present for it truly be Captain America. "For me, the biggest one of them is the wings on the sides of the head. I don't want to see them go. I had designs utilizing the wings involved in the headpiece in slightly different ways, but basically, that was the one thing I felt had to stay. I did not want to provide a single drawing or sign off on my participation on it, without those wings... To me, that's the iconic

graphic image: the A and the wings on the sides of the head. I believe you can make them look good – they don't have to look ridiculous. I believe that a lot of the ways that people draw them don't flatter them. I've produced a life-sized sculpture of Captain America's head with the wings that I can point to and say, 'See? That doesn't look stupid.' And if people don't believe me – they can go out and buy one and see for themselves!

"The idea of this 'chrome' headpiece was kind of an evolution of the first thing I threw out as a suggestion, which was the chestplate looking like, or being evocative of his original shield from 1941. That kind of evolved into an attached headpiece, which was one of the coolest things that happened during the course of the collaboration with Steve and Ed. We all just arrived at this point where we all came to the conclusion that it would look cool if you just pull the design element all the way up, so you get kind of a classic looking Cap, but with the spin of a new headpiece and armor. That is there to give the idea that...well, someone is tangential to the new suit's design in the Marvel Universe. Someone who felt that Captain America would need something more protective than just chainmail. As much as I love that chainmail..."

While the chain mail may have been a striking design element in the Golden Age, Ross wanted to bring in a more contemporary, realistic look to the costume. "This blue, white, and red are made of this chrome and have a shiny appearance—that's a crossbreeding between the classic and the more realistic black that he wears as a bodysuit and the utility belt that he wears which have the knife and gun. His boots are black, his sleeves are black – all in all, it's a more subdued costume, but then you've got this very bright, glorious center that draws your attention. It's a V shooting down from the shoulders – it's something that's classic and...not really 'modern,' but more timeless... It looks like something that could have been drawn sixty years ago. There's nothing about it that's utterly new, but the spin on the various elements being swapped around – the black undersuit and the chrome effect and bright colors, for example. It's a fresh coat of paint on something that is timeless at its base."

Ross's cover painting is offered in a 50:50 ratio with *Steve Epting's* cover featuring the new costume. "That was something I wanted," Ross said. "I *hate* variant covers, for one. And yes, I know I've done a few in the past year, and I had no idea that mine would be the ones people would be bent over a barrel for. I don't want to do that any more, so... I thought it should be an equal share for retailers ordering this. Steve's done some fantastic covers for the series, and he should continue to control this run, artistically. I'm just a guest here – he owns this house."

Brubaker assures readers that this isn't a dead-end teaser, like the Captain America-esque ***Punisher War Journal*** variant cover. "It's a new Captain America. Plain and simple, no tricks, no ploys," Brubaker said. "This is no tease. This is a new Captain America, in the ***Captain America*** comic itself, so you know I wouldn't just do it for a gimmick. This has been part of the plan all along, and if I ever implied there wouldn't be a new Cap ever, then I was avoiding the question or dodging it."

So what about the gun and the knife—is this something issued to the new Captain America, or does he bring them with him? "They're issued to him," Brubaker said. "But who issues them? People think they know everything that's going to happen or what's coming up... but they don't. And just because he's got a gun, does that mean he's going to be blowing people's heads off? Not necessarily. Cops carry guns, as do soldiers. A modern super-soldier might, as well. It's just another tool in the arsenal.

"I don't think having a new Cap who happens to carry a firearm and a combat knife is that big a deal or damages the nature of the icon. But that's just me—and like I said, this is part of a story as far as I'm concerned, not a stunt or event or gimmick...

"Plus, Cap carried guns plenty in World War II and has used them here and there since coming out of the ice, too, so again, it just doesn't seem like an outrage to me. As I've said many times, though, I'm much more in tune with Steranko's version of Cap than the softer 'Cap never killed a Nazi in WW2' version that came along in the late '80s or thereabouts. I don't think any soldier who's a decent person *enjoys* killing, mind you, and I'm not saying Cap—this Cap or Steve Rogers—*enjoys* shooting people, but it's the burden of war. And in the Marvel Universe, Cap fought in more wars than most soldiers did."

See the new costume in action—and find out who's behind the mask— on January 16th, when ***Captain America #34,*** a $2.99 comic, is slated for release. And while you're at it, why not pick up a copy of the ***Captain America by Alex Ross Poster,*** depicting Ross's eye-catching cover painting in 24" x 36" size, for only $7.99 more?

—by Matt Brady (with Cliff Biggers)

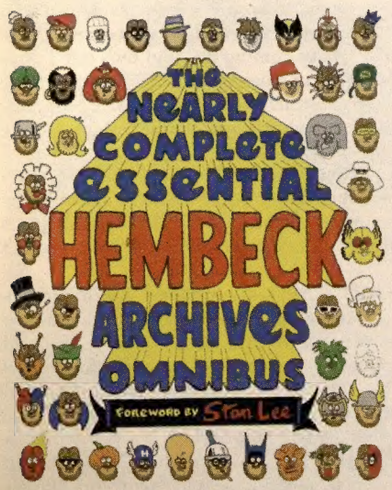
Courtesy of your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

CSNsider

• Comics historian/cartoonist/nostalgiameister *Fred Hembeck* returns to comic shop shelves in February with the release of ***The Nearly Complete Essential Hembeck Archives Omnibus.*** This volume offers more than 900 pages of Hembeck wonderfulness, including every single ***Dateline:@#$%*** ever done, along with all seven of Hembeck's early-80's Fantaco books, rarely seen fanzine pages, and original stories. *Stan Lee* provides the introduction for this delightful trip down fandom's memory lane—and you can join him for less than $25!



• At his website, *Rob Schrab* has announced that the conclusion of his cult-favorite ***Scud the Disposable Assassin*** series has expanded from a single issue to a four-part series. A hefty trade paperback collecting all 24 issues is slated to appear from Image in the summer of 2008.

• Last week's talk with upcoming ***Wonder Woman*** writer *Gail Simone* led to a followup question: will either ***Countdown*** or DC's next big event, ***Final Crisis,*** cross over into Simone's ***Wonder Woman*** run? "DC has been great about letting us tell these stories on their own merits," Simone replied. "I think everyone knows this is a time to focus on Wonder Woman as the star of her own book. Sure, Diana is a pivotal figure in the DCU and she *will* appear elsewhere—and that's all fun, that's all fine. I'm talking with other writers so that her character stays consistent. Everyone really wants a ***Wonder Woman*** that's explosive and entertaining and gripping, and that has to be the focus of her own book for a while, I believe." So it looks like readers can anticipate a crossover-free ***Wonder Woman*** for the foreseeable future!

• Top Cow President *Matt Hawkins* assures readers that Top Cow is taking its lateness problems seriously. Hawkins has announced that, beginning in 2008, Hawkins will donate $500 to the Hero Initiative for every late book they ship. Should a month go by with no late books, he'll donate $1000 to the charity that benefits comics' pioneering creators.

• Good news for Grist fans: Image reports that *Paul Grist's* ***Jack Staff*** will not only return in January '08 with the release of ***Jack Staff Special #1,*** but it'll actually appear on a monthly schedule! "I've longed to put out ***Jack Staff*** monthly for a long time," Grist said. "Luckily, I wasn't alone as Image's Executive Director, *Eric Stephenson,* has wanted the same thing. We've been working together to make it happen for awhile now and I'm happy to say we already have three issues in the can with a fourth right on its heels."

Coming Comics—DC in January

In the wake of Ra's al Ghul's recent resurrection, Batman's body lies near death in a heart-stopped coma in ***Batman #673.*** Meanwhile, his delirious mind travels back to a defining adventure in the life of young Bruce Wayne...the hunt for his parents' killer! This special flashback tale by *Grant Morrison, Tony Daniel, & Jonathan Glapion* also revisits Batman's life-changing Thogal ritual in the caves of Nanda Parbat!

Tony Bedard, Rags Morales, & Mark Farmer launch the four-part "Wrath Child" in ***Batman Confidential #13.*** Batman and Nightwing become embroiled in the return of a major nemesis who was thought to be dead long ago: The Wrath has returned!

Booster Gold heads back in time to save the best friend he ever had—the Blue Beetle—in ***Booster Gold #6*** by *Geoff Johns, Jeff Kats, Dan Jurgens, & Norm Rapmund.* But can Booster stop Maxwell Lord before someone else dies in Ted Kord's place? And will Ted Kord let that happen?

Countdown to Final Crisis goes to war with #s 17-13 as the Challengers find Ray Palmer — and so does everyone else! The fate of a universe hangs in the balance, as heroes and villains from across the multiverse face betrayal and death with Earth as their battlefield!

JLA CLASSIFIED #50

Dustin Nguyen joins writer *Paul Dini* as new regular penciler beginning with ***Detective Comics #840.*** Still haunted by the specter of Ra's Al Ghul, Batman returns to Gotham to face a new threat in the form of The Globe, a map-obsessed mastermind who charts his crimes with deadly accuracy.

The build-up to ***Final Crisis*** continues in ***Green Lantern #27*** by *Geoff Johns, Mike McKone,* and others. In the aftermath of the Sinestro Corps War, a select few have been chosen to undergo a transformation that will leave them forever altered and forever committed to the Green Lantern Corps.

Justice League of America #17 features two stories—one by *Alan Burnett* focusing on a mysterious and familiar team from beyond time that has infiltrated the Hall of Justice looking for a weapon, and the other a tale by *Dwayne McDuffie* that explores what's wrong with Vixen's powers.

Jakeem Thunder returns in ***Justice Society of America #12*** by *Geoff Johns, Alex Ross, Dale Eaglesham, & Ruy Jose.* The Justice Society reaches out to the next wave of legacy heroes: the new Mr. America, Judomaster, Amazing Man and more! Plus, another face familiar to the ***Kingdom Come*** Superman makes his presence known.

Roger Stern, John Byrne, & Mark Farmer join forces to present a five-parter that begins in ***JLA Classified #50.*** The Justice League faces a new foe who seems to remember them well enough to want revenge. But when have they faced off before? Meet a mysterious new foe again...for the first time!

Jim Shooter's return to the Legion continues in ***Legion of Super-Heroes #38*** as Saturn Girl, Timber Wolf and Star Boy's mission on the moon of Triton goes awry when Invisible Kid leads them into a lethal predicament.

Peter Tomasi, Rags Morales, & Michael Bair make the creative debut in ***Nightwing #140.*** When the bodies of nefarious villains and fallen heroes begin to disappear from their final resting places, Dick Grayson is drawn into a life-altering adventure.

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Chuck Dixon & Chris Batista begin their run with ***Robin #170*** as Robin comes home to Gotham to find there's a new girl in town, wearing a color he can't ignore. The new vigilante calls herself Violet, and she steals from the rich to keep for herself...and Robin's going to find out that's not all she's playing for.

The new ***Spirit*** creative team of *Sergio Aragones, Mark Evanier, & Mike Ploog* debut in ***Spirit #14*** as the Spirit investigates a string of killings that are plaguing Central City.

In the aftermath of "Titans of Tomorrow," the Titans enjoy a moment of quiet in ***Teen Titans #55...*** but you can rest assured that *Sean McKeever, Eddy Barrows, & Rob Hunter* have more storms in store for the super-team. As one Titan leaves forever, Wonder Girl and Robin explore their newfound feelings for each other; meanwhile, Ravager enjoys herself by pitting Blue Beetle against Kid Devil. And watch out for the introduction of the new Clock King, a modern-day Fagin out to create a villainous team of his own.

Amy Wolfram, Karl Kerschl, & Sergio LaPointe present an intriguing revisitation of the Titans' initial meetings in ***Teen Titans: Year One,*** a six-issue limited series. You may think you know Robin, Wonder Girl, Kid Flash and Aqualad...but you don't really know the original Teen Titans!

And speaking of the original Titans, you can't get more original than ***Teen Titans: The Lost Annual,*** the long-awaited extra-length book featuring a story by original ***Titans*** writer *Bob Haney* with art by *Jay Stephens & Mike Allred* and a cover by Silver Age ***Titans*** illustrator par excellence *Nick Cardy.* Robin, Kid Flash, Wonder Girl, Speedy, and Aqualad head into space to rescue President John F. Kennedy in this offbeat quasi-blast-from-the-past.

DC collected editions include:

- ***Adam Strange Archives Volume 3,*** collecting the Adam Strange stories from ***Mystery in Space #s 81-91, Hawkman #18,*** and ***Strange Adventures #157;***
- ***Batman: The Killing Joke Special Edition,*** a hardcover edition of the *Alan Moore-Brian Bolland* classic, featuring all new coloring work by Bolland along with a bonus Moore-Bolland story, "An Innocent Guy" from ***Batman: Black and White;***
- ***Birds of Prey: Dead of Winter,*** collecting ***BoP #s 104-108;***
- ***Blue Beetle Volume 3: Reach for the Stars,*** collecting ***BB #s 13-18;***
- ***Catwoman: Catwoman's Dead,*** collecting ***Catwoman #s 66-72;***
- ***Connor Hawke: Dragon's Blood,*** collecting the six-part miniseries;
- ***Countdown Special: The New Gods,*** and Eighty-Page Special that reprints ***Mister Miracle #1, Forever People #1,*** and ***New Gods #1*** (and if you like what you see here, you can enjoy a whole lot more in DC's ***Jack Kirby's Fourth World Omnibus*** volumes!);
- ***Diana Prince: Wonder Woman Volume One,*** collecting the Diana Rigg-ish Wonder Woman revamp from ***Wonder Woman #s 178-184*** and ***Lois Lane #93;***
- ***The Flash: Blood Will Run,*** a reissue of the trade paperback collecting ***Flash #s 170-176;***
- ***Jack Kirby's Fourth World Omnibus Volume Four,*** collecting the final issues of ***The New Gods, The Forever People, Mister Miracle,*** and the restored graphic novel ***The Hunger Dogs*** and other bonus extras;
- ***Justice League International,*** a hardcover compilation of ***Justice League #s 1-6 & Justice League International #7*** by *Keith Giffen, J.M. DeMatteis, Kevin Maguire, Terry Austin, & Al Gordon;*
- ***Showcase Presents Enemy Ace Volume 1,*** collecting the Enemy Ace tales from ***Our Army at War #s 151, 153, & 155; Showcase #s 57-58; Star-Spangled War Stories #s 138-152, 158, 181-183, & 200; Detective Comics #404; Men at War #s 1-3, 8-10, 12-14, & 19-20; Unknown Soldier #s 252-253, 260-261, & 265-275;*** and ***DC Special #26;***
- ***Showcase Presents Superman Family Volume 2,*** collecting Silver Age classics from ***Jimmy Olsen #s 23-34, Showcase #10, & Lois Lane #s 1-7;***
- ***Superman Chronicles Volume Four,*** collecting the Superman tales from ***Action #s 26-31*** and ***Superman #s 6 & 7;***
- ***Time Masters,*** collecting the Rip Hunter miniseries by *Bob Wayne, Lewis Shiner, Art Thibert, & José Marzan, Jr.;* and
- ***Wonder Woman: Who Is Wonder Woman?,*** a hardcover edition of the *Allan Heinberg-Terry Dodson-Rachel Dodson* story arc from ***Wonder Woman #s 1-4 & Annual #1.***

Coming Comics—CMX/DC in January

The star of the hit late-night Adult Swim series comes to CMX as ***Crayon ShinChan*** makes his debut. He's rude, he's crude, and adults tremble whenever he's around. His inappropriate comments and obsession with body parts and bodily functions make life stressful for his struggling parents. Fans around the world have been following Shinchan's offensive adventures for years, and now *Yoshito Usui's* creation is coming to US manga readers in all its uncensored glory.

A teenage boy crosses paths with an attractive alien who convinces him to test alien power suit technology (of course, she tells him that it's just a costume from a toy company) in ***Dokkoida?!,*** a lighthearted adventure by *Taro Achi & Yu Yagimi.*

Coming Comics—WildStorm in January

The art of *Jim Lee, Travis Charest, Sean Phillips, Dustin Nguyen,* and others is featured in ***WildStorm Fine Arts Spotlight on Wildcats,*** a forty-page special.

From out of the pages of ***WildStorm: Armageddon*** comes the biweekly six-part ***WildStorm: Revelations,*** in which WildStorm's heroes struggle to save their universe. *Scott Beatty, Christos Gage, & Wes Craig* do the honors as Nemesis, Backlash, and Savant struggle to prevent Armageddon from occurring.

Gen13 v2 #s 7-13 are collected in ***Gen13 Volume 2: Road Trip.***

Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in January

Adam Chamberlain's adventure concludes in *Steven T. Seagle, Becky Cloonan, & Jim Rugg's* ***American Virgin #23.*** There are three things Adam has been waiting his whole life to experience: reunion, revenge, and consummation. Under the all-seeing eye of his Higher Power, Adam is offered these desires, but each comes with a price: betrayal, arrest, and damnation.

Brian K. Vaughan's ***Y—The Last Man*** comes to an end with January's sixtieth issue—and what a finale it is! Witness the end of Yorick's odyssey in this memorable 48-page comic.

Vertigo collected editions include:

- ***Crossing Midnight Volume 2: A Map of Midnight,*** collecting ***Crossing Midnight #s 6-12;***

Continued on page 6

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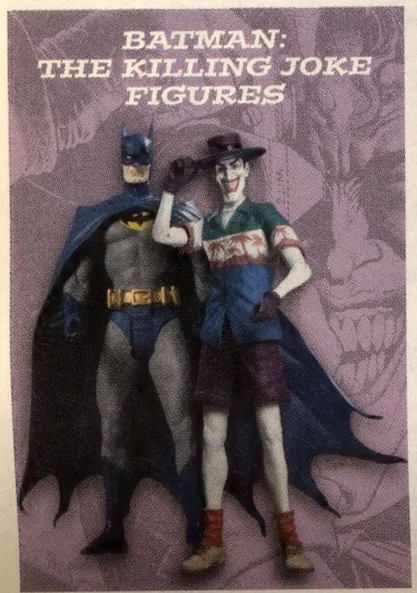
NOVEMBER 2007

REDEMPTION WAS NEVER AN OPTION!
SALVATION RUN
A 7-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES WRITTEN BY
BILL WILLINGHAM
ART BY
SEAN CHEN

• ***Hellblazer: Joy Ride,*** collecting ***Hellblazer #s 230-237;*** and
• ***Scalped Volume 2: Casino Boogie,*** collecting ***Scalped #s 6-11.***

Coming from DC Direct in June 2008

The art of Batman creator *Bob Kane* is the inspiration for *Jack Matthews'* ***Bob Kane's Batman: Black & White Statue,*** which reflects Batman's distinctive look from his origin in ***Detective Comics #33.***

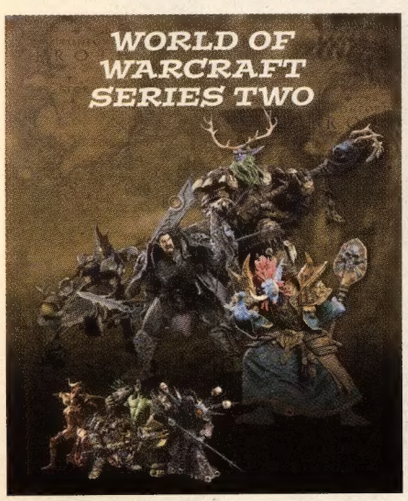


Newly sculpted versions of Batman and the Joker, based on the art of *Brian Bolland,* are featured in ***Batman: The Killing Joke,*** which also includes a prestige-format version of the *Alan Moore-Brian Bolland* tale.

DC ***Minimates Wave Eight*** features four new two-packs: ***Green Lantern Salaak & Green Lantern Sinestro, Superman (Red Son) & Wonder Woman (Red Son); Batwoman (Modern) and the Question (Modern);*** and ***Cyborg & Raven.***

World of Warcraft Action Figures Series 2, originally slated for early 2008 release, has been pushed back to June; the series will feature ***Human Warrior: Archilon Shadowheart; Troll Priest: Zabra Hexx; Gnome Warrior: Sprocket Gyrospring; Night Elf Druid: Broll Bearmantle,*** and the ***Draenei Paladin: Vindicator Maraad Series 2 Deluxe Figure.***

DC revisits its past with ***Showcase Presents Action Figure Series One,*** featuring ***Superman*** inspired by the art of *Curt Swan,* ***Batgirl*** by *Carmine Infantino,* ***Hawkman*** by *Joe Kubert,* and ***Jonah Hex*** by *Tony DeZuniga.*



Coming Comics—Marvel in January

Marc Guggenheim & Salvador Larroca introduce Spidey's newest villain, Menace, in a three-parter that begins in ***Amazing Spider-Man #549.***

After a lengthy hiatus, ***Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter: Guilty Pleasures*** makes its appearance in January, continuing the adaptation of *Laurell K. Hamilton's* novel. *Jess Ruffner* does the writing honors, while *Brett Booth* supplies the visuals.

Ed Brubaker, Steve Epting, and cover artist/costume designer *Alex Ross* introduce a new Captain America in ***Captain America #34*** (see this issue's cover story for more info).

One hundred issues after their debut, the Exiles are about to venture in a new direction.. but before they do, they take care of some unfinished business in ***Exiles: Days of Then & Now,*** written by *Mike Raicht.* That leads straight into ***New Exiles #1,*** in which *Chris Claremont & Tom Grummett* introduce a new team with a new mandate to safeguard the fate and future of the Omniverse. Right off the bat, they're thrust into their first mission — summoned to a world where the dawn of the historic Marvel Age turns out instead to be a prelude to global catastrophe.

When the Fantastic Four meet their future counterparts, they finally learn the astonishing outcome of Reed Richards' secret, post-Civil War plan. Find out what they discover in *Dwayne McDuffie & Paul Pelletier's* ***Fantastic Four #553.***

What's going on with the Hulk? Heck, Marvel won't even confirm that the title of #113 is ***The Incredible Hulk!*** So what *is* the title? We'll find out in January!

Jeph Loeb & Ed McGuinness offer an intriguing new look at the Hulk in ***Hulk #1*** as the surprising events of ***World War Hulk*** continue in this new series. When one of The Hulk's oldest cast members is murdered, everyone turns to the team of Iron Man, She-Hulk, and Doc Samson to solve the grisly case... even though all the evidence indicates that the Hulk is responsible!

Messiah Complex continues in ***Uncanny X-Men #494, X-Factor #27, New X-Men #46,*** and ***X-Men #207*** as the struggle for the future of the messiah baby goes on.

Entourage scriptwriter *Mike Benson* joins *Charlie Huston* to pen Moon Knight's exploits beginning with ***Moon Knight #14.*** So who gave Moon Knight a Registration Card? That's the question that Tony Stark would really like to have answered!

The Hood's gang of super-criminals takes the fight right to the Avengers' door in ***New Avengers Annual #2*** by *Brian Bendis & Carlo Pagulayan.* This double-sized issue ties into or wraps up threads from ***Civil War, World War Hulk,*** both ***Avengers*** titles and the upcoming ***Secret Invasion.***

David Lapham & Tony Harris explore the pre-death-of-Uncle-Ben life of Peter Parker in the five-part ***Spider-Man: With Great Power...*** It's a side of Spider-Man's early life you've barely glimpsed until now!

J. Michael Straczynski & Chris Weston reintroduce some of the Golden Age's forgotten heroes in the twelve-part series ***The Twelve.*** Thought lost to the pages of time, a dozen Mystery Men from the "greatest generation" of World War Two find themselves thrust into the morally-gray world of the 21st century! Now, Captain Wonder, Dynamic Man, Mastermind Excello, Mister E, the Laughing Mask, the Witness, the Black Widow, the Phantom Reporter, the Fiery Mask, Rockman, the Blue Blade and Electro the Marvel of the Age must seek a place for themselves in the modern Marvel Universe—while a silent killer seeks to eliminate them, one by one!

Thanos returns in *Mike Carey & Tyler Kirkham's* ***Ultimate Fantastic Four #50.*** The Baxter Building is under siege as forces strive to gain control of the Cosmic Cube. And in the race to command this deadliest of weapons, treachery and overkill are the order of the day...even from former friends!

Warren Ellis & Cary Nord focus on the Ultimate war between the Hulk and Iron Man in the four-part ***Ultimate Human.*** Desperate for a cure to his dark disease, scientist Bruce Banner begs Tony Stark for a release from the curse of the Hulk. Stark agrees, but in the midst of the experimentation, something goes horribly wrong...

The Ultiverse gets its own updated handbook with the release of ***Ultimate Secrets,*** a 48-page special that spotlights the Ultimate X-Men, Spidey, FF, and many others.

"Spider-Man and His Amazing Friends" begins in ***Ultimate Spider-Man #118,*** courtesy of *Brian Bendis & Stuart Immonen.* Things are changing in the young life of Peter Parker: Johnny Storm of the Fantastic Four is now his buddy---and the hot–headed super hero has taken a liking to Peter's classmate, Liz Allen!

Salvador Larroca makes his artistic debut, joining *Robert Kirkman* with ***Ultimate X-Men #90.*** Sinister has been resurrected, the pieces are moving into place, and everything is starting to come together. Can the X-Men prevent the coming of Apocalypse?

Years ago, Spider-Man attempted to stop Wolverine from killing a friend from the past... and in the process, Spidey accidentally killed her instead. In the aftermath, he returned home to Mary Jane... but what if he had stayed in Russia instead? *Jeff Parker, Paul Tobin, & Clayton Henry* answer that question in ***What If? Spider-Man Vs. Wolverine.***

Who's going to clean up after ***World War Hulk?*** Find out in ***WWH Aftersmash: Damage Control,*** a three-part series by *Dwayne McDuffie & Salva Espin.* They're going to learn, though, that it's tough to clean up before the devastation has ended!...

Patriot, Hulkling, Wiccan, Vision, Stature and Hawkeye return to comics in ***Young Avengers Presents,*** a six-part series that features solo tales by a number of top talents, beginning with a Patriot tale by *Ed Brubaker & Paco Medina.*

YOUNG AVENGERS PRESENTS: PATRIOT

Marvel's collected editions include:

- ***Annihilation: Conquest Book One,*** a hardcover compilation of ***Annihilation: Conquest Prologue, Quasar #s 1-4, Starlord #s 1-4,*** and ***Annihilation Saga;***
- ***Avengers West Coast: Darker Than Scarlet,*** collecting ***Avengers West Coast #s 51-57 & 60-62;***
- ***Beyond!,*** collecting the *Dwayne McDuffie-Scott Kolins* miniseries;
- ***Essential Captain America Volume 4,*** a black and white compilation of ***Captain America #s 157-186;***
- ***Essential Marvel Saga Volume 1,*** a black and white compilation of ***Marvel Saga #s 1-12;***
- ***Fantastic Four: The End,*** collecting the six-part *Alan Davis* miniseries;
- ***Fantastic Four & Power Pack: Favorite Son,*** a digest compilation of the miniseries;
- ***Ghost Rider Volume 3: Apocalypse Soon,*** collecting ***Ghost Rider #s 12-13 & Annual #1;***
- ***House of M,*** a hardcover edition of the *Brian Bendis-Olivier Coipel* miniseries, along with bonus extras;
- ***Hulk: The End,*** a hardcover compilation of *Peter David's* ***Incredible Hulk: The End*** (illustrated by *Dale Keown*) and ***Future Imperfect*** (illustrated by *George Pérez);*
- ***Hulk Visionaries: Peter David Volume 5,*** collecting ***Hulk #s 364-372 & Annual #16;***
- ***The Invincible Iron Man Omnibus Volume One,*** a massive hardcover collecting Iron Man's exploits from ***Tales of Suspense #s 39-83*** and ***Tales to Astonish #82;***
- ***Marvel Adventures Spider-Man Volume 8: Force of Nature,*** a digest collecting ***#s 29-32;***
- ***Marvel Masterworks: Golden Age Daring Mystery Volume One,*** collecting the rarely-seen Golden Age superhero anthology series that was the home for many of the characters featured in the new series ***The Twelve;***
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The Uncanny X-Men Volume 6,*** collecting ***X-Men #141*** and ***Uncanny X-Men #s 142-150,*** which includes the final *Chris Claremont-John Byrne* issues;
- ***Ms. Marvel Volume 3: Operation Lightning Storm,*** a softcover collecting ***Ms. Marvel #s 11-17;***
- ***New Avengers: Illuminati,*** collecting the limited series by *Brian Bendis, Brian Reed, & Jim Cheung;*
- ***New Avengers/Transformers,*** collecting the four-part Marvel-IDW crossover series;
- ***New Warriors Volume 1: The Next Right Thing,*** collecting ***New Warriors #s 1-6;***
- ***Nextwave: Agents of HATE Volume 2,*** a softcover edition of ***Nextwave #s 7-12;***
- ***Onslaught Reborn,*** collecting the limited series by *Jeph Loeb & Rob Liefeld;*
- ***Storm,*** a trade paperback edition of the *Eric Jerome Dickey-David Yardin-Lan Medina* limited series;
- ***Thor Visionaries: Walter Simonson Volume 5,*** collecting ***Thor #s 375-382;***
- ***Thunderbolts By Warren Ellis Volume 1: Faith in Monsters,*** a trade paperback collecting ***Thunderbolts #s 110-115, Desperate Measures,*** and the Thunderbolts stories from ***Civil War: The Initiative*** and ***Choosing Sides;***
- ***Ultimate X-Men Volume 17: Sentinels,*** reprinting ***Ultimate X-Men #s 81-88;***
- ***Uncanny X-Men: Rise & Fall of the Shi'Ar Empire,*** a trade paperback collecting ***Uncanny X-Men #s 475-486;***
- ***X-Factor: Madrox—Multiple Choice,*** a hardcover collecting the ***Madrox*** miniseries;
- ***X-Men: Endangered Species,*** collecting the one-shot and the seventeen chapters of the post-***House of M*** tale;
- ***X-Men: Phoenix—Warsong,*** collecting the five-part miniseries; and
- ***Young Avengers,*** an oversized hardcover collecting all twelve issues of the *Allan Heinberg-Jim Cheung* series, along with the ***Young Avengers Special.***

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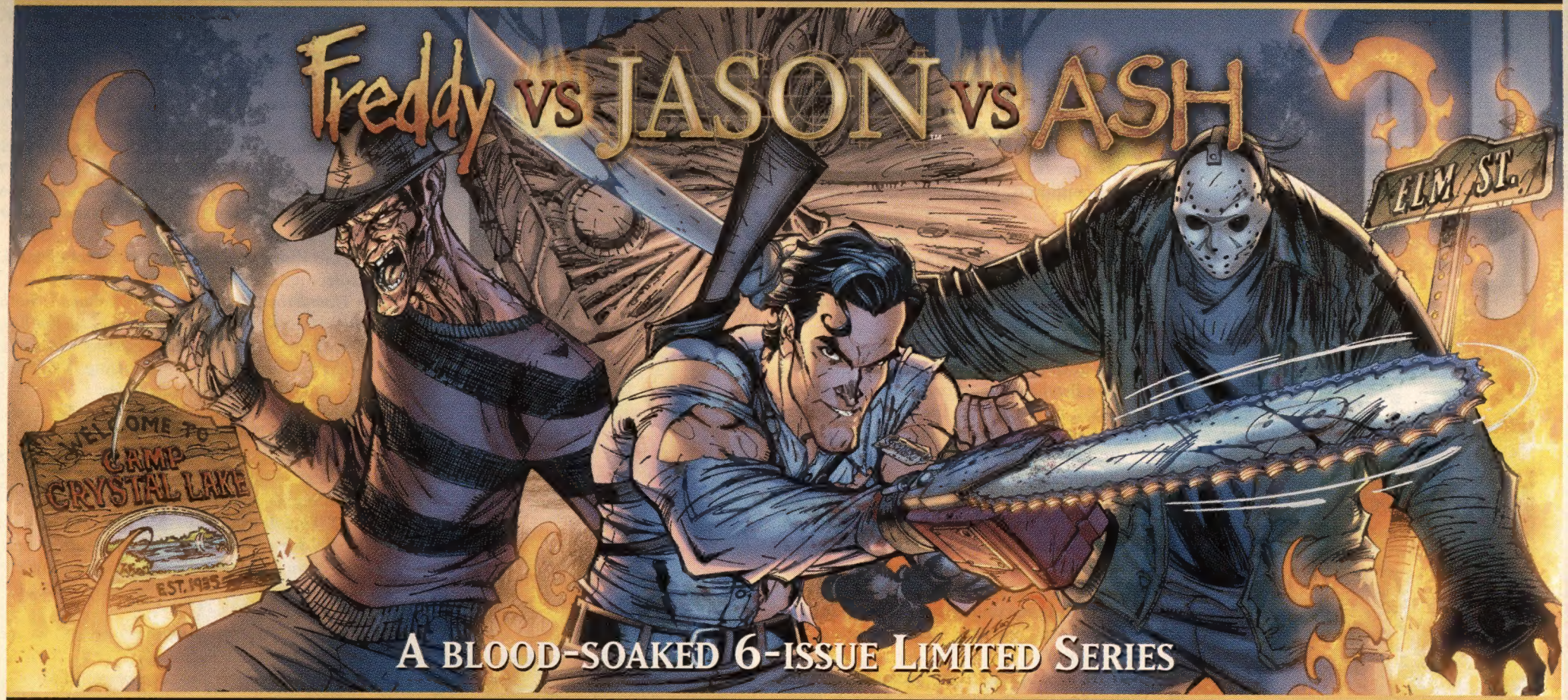

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